

Date: April 11, 2019
Time: 8:00 – 10:00 pm
Location: Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Hamburg
Submitted by: Michael Sherry

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. At the above date, time, and location fourteen seminarians and five priests were in attendance at a pizza party during which some unsuitable and insensitive conversations occurred that were disturbing and offensive to several seminarians in attendance, one of whom was teased about his past employment. Said conversations included disparagement of some current and past priests, vulgar language, and reports of alleged past sex-related incidences. Five of the seminarians were interviewed and rendered very similar descriptions of the conversations. All were concerned about the impact their cooperation might have upon their vocation and hoped for future ordained careers and, consequently, prefer anonymity. Because the incident was not a seminary function and occurred at a diocesan church, this report and the matter it relates are being referred to the diocese for its adjudication.

April 12: The formation team received second-hand information about a gathering of seminarians at Ss. Peter & Paul Church (Hamburg) the evening before, during which it is alleged that certain priests told sex-related stories.

April 15: It is learned that several seminarians in attendance were disturbed by the alleged stories. Discussion between president-rector, vice-president, and myself determines that the matter should be further investigated by one of the designated report-takers/investigators, specifically, myself.

10:20 – 1050 hrs. In person interview of seminarian One.

- Issued the invites and hosted the event. Identified all seminarians who attended the gathering at any point, as well as five priests who were in attendance: Art Mattulke, Pat O'Keefe, Robert Orlowski, Bryan Zielenski, and Cole Webster.
- One story involved one of the priests hearing the parents of [REDACTED] having intercourse, indicating the father was "really giving it to her," was "really banging her." [REDACTED]

- Acknowledged that things were being said, but of the kind he felt was normal among guys and priests. Suggests that if any of his fellow seminarians were offended they should have left, or should have said something to him if they felt something was wrong or otherwise felt uncomfortable.
- Things have been circulating among the seminarians over the course of the weekend. He is hearing different stories, and hearing some guys are upset, but he is just trying to keep his distance.
- He has heard that seminarian Three was upset, and that seminarian Two sent himself notes [REDACTED]
- Saw Fr. Art yesterday (Sunday) and told him what was going around at the seminary. Fr. Art encouraged him not to "hate" the other guys, and that he (Fr. Art) will never do that again.

1:30 – 1:38 pm. In person interview of seminarian Two.

- Identified who was present for the event, including priests (same as seminarian One).
- Does not recall, did not hear, Frs. Webster or Zielenski say anything offensive (crude or sexual).
- Suggests three phases to the conversations: general socializing, offensive – mostly sexual – discussions and comments begin and intensify (during which he and seminarians Three and Four eventually left), and whatever occurred afterwards.
- [REDACTED] s father banging his mother at a retreat (unknown when or where); some female parishioner with incontinence; frequent use of "cunt" and "f-bombs;" a past seminary black friar (deceased) who traveled to truck stops to give blow-jobs, and referred to the climax as being like receiving communion; one or more past priest faculty members who gave oral finals in his/their living quarters, placing six cards on the bed which the seminarian had to choose from and coming out holding their buttocks indicating they just received and "A; Fr. [REDACTED] crying about bishop not loving him (not clear what bishop), and reference to Fr. [REDACTED] and anal sex; teasing of seminarian Five about being a flight attendant ("stewardess"), and the taking and withholding of his watch.
- Arrived back at the seminary around 10 pm. Made notes in his phone about the evening. [REDACTED] Agreed to email the notes to me.
- Very upset. Concerned diocese will suppress or otherwise not act.

- Reports that a diocesan priest (identified) has pursued [REDACTED]

April 16:

9:15 – 9:45 am. In person interview with seminarian Three.

- Identified who was present for the event, including priests (same as seminarian One and Two, except for not including Fr. Z). Also reports that a Fr. McCarthy (retired?) arrived late but was pretty much by himself.
- Left around 10 pm.
- Every time indicated leaving, felt pressured to stay.
- Would have expected rough language and some sexual references, as at construction sites (comes from blue collar family), but some of this was particularly "gross."
- Seminarian Four teased about being a "stewardess;" his watch was taken and held back.
- Same stories about [REDACTED]'s parents, incontinent female parishioner, former (deceased) CKS formator going to truck stops.
- Recounting of story about viewing of a male parishioners nude photos leading to ejaculation.
- Criticisms of Fr. [REDACTED], including bishop not liking/loving him; criticisms of Fr. [REDACTED] (a "butt plug," which isn't descriptive enough); others (but didn't delve into, including seminarians).
- Seminarians have been talking about the gathering and are concerned for their future.

1:30 – 1:55 pm. In person interview with Seminarian Four.

- Drove up with seminarians Two, Three, and Five, but stayed when they left around 10 pm. (Same driving arrangements were communicated by these other three.)
- The gathering began to wind down after the three left, lasting perhaps another hour.
- Has partial hearing loss, so has trouble differentiating voices and conversations in larger crowds.

- Did directly hear some things, and learning of others from other seminarians who were present, including more details about those things he himself did hear in part.
- Heard numerous stories, adding banana and pickle slappings (with attendant sexual innuendo) and other unidentified stories relating to when the three older priests (who appeared to be friends) were seminarians.
- Aware of oral exams in priest(s) quarters, and a faculty member visiting truck stops.
- Regarding current faculty members, only recalls things being said that made it clear they did not like Fr. [REDACTED]
- Did not hear anything inappropriate from Frs. Bryan Z. and Cole W.
- It was obvious to him that several seminarians wanted to leave but were pressured to stay each time.

April 17:

10:40 – noon. In person interview with seminarian Five.

- Quickly alluded to the many particulars already related to in this report. (Seminarians were aware of the investigation.)
- Remainder of interview involved the seminarian relating a history and concerns about a particular priest and his alleged romantic pursuit of this seminarian, details of which are not included in this report as being unrelated to the matter at hand.
- Reference to this romantically interested priest during the gathering led to two other priests reporting similar pursuits by the same priest.

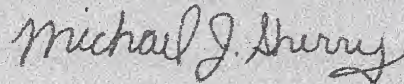
1:30 pm Noticed email from seminarian Two. Contained a list of offensive conduct/comments (attached). Email suggests the list is a compilation from among the seminarians (not identified). This same list was presented to the president-rector by the Hamilton bishop who was here on his end of the year visit. It is reported that the bishop received it from a seminarian who was not at the gathering.

April 18:

8:40 – 8:45 am. Follow-up telephone interview with Seminarian Two.

- Following the general discussion phase, seminarians were complaining about the stringent formation program. This led to the senior priests comparing (surpassing) their formation program with the current one and its personnel. This is when the conversation began to denigrate into many of the aforementioned sex-related stories. Unknown as to precisely when in the chain of this conversation was the raising of the diocesan priest's romantic pursuit of seminarian Four (by seminarian Four).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Sherry". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Michael J. Sherry

Academic Dean/ Christ the King Seminary